

BADGER STATE

SMOKE SIGNALS

SERVING AMATEUR RADIO IN WISCONSIN

Published since 1969 • Our 40th Year
Single Copy \$3.00

Return Address
Kenneth A. Ebnetter
822 Wauona Trail
Portage WI 53901

ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED

PRESORT STANDARD
U S Postage
PAID
Permit #265
Portage WI 53901

Volume 40 No 5/6 • Published Bimonthly

OCTOBER/DECEMBER 2008

For A Job Well Done

At the monthly meeting of the Columbia county ARES meeting, September 18th, Columbia County Sheriff Dennis Richards presented a plaque to EC Rich Green, KC9FNM.

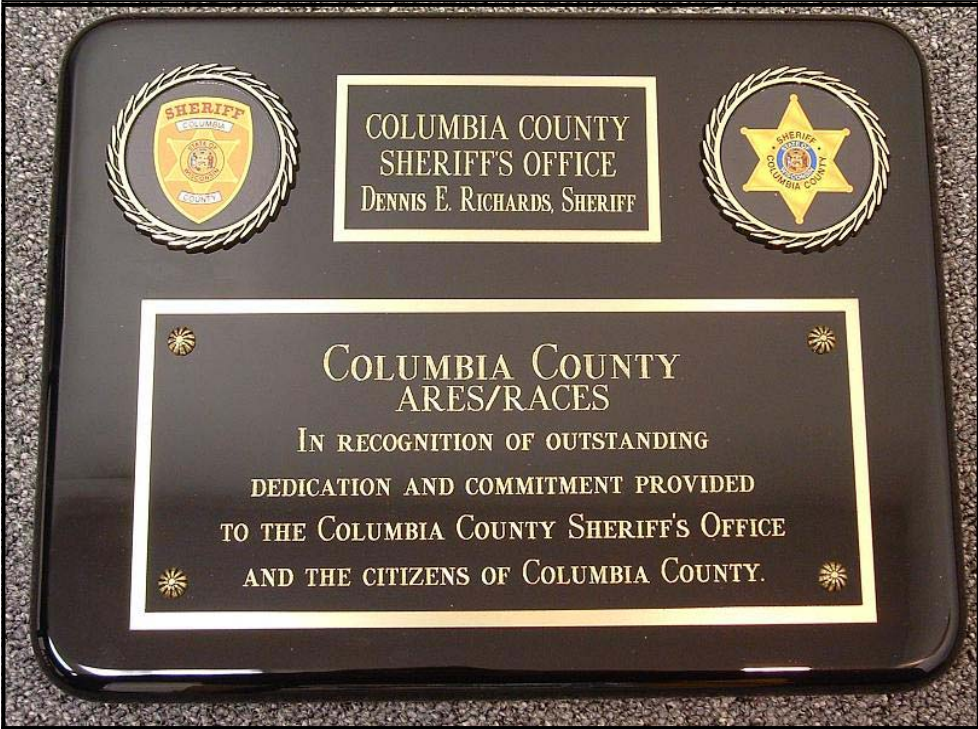
Sheriff Richards said “Without your help and communications assistance during the June flooding we don’t know what we would have done. I’m sure things would have been a lot worse than they were.

“You literally saved a tremendous amount of damage and manpower by manning the flooding situation on highway 22 in Pardeeville. I was out of man power. I had no place to turn to for immediate resources.”

Sheriff Richards went on to say: “You’re doing security and fire watch at the fairgrounds during the (Columbia County) fair saves me a tremendous amount of man power. Pat Beghin , Columbia County Emergency Government Director was also very appreciative of your help in taking flood assessment reports at the EOC.

Rich thanked the sheriff for taking the time from his busy schedule to come to the meeting. Rich said, “We are always happy to help out in Columbia County in any way we can. This is why we have our monthly meetings and training sessions.”

During the June flooding the Columbia county ARES group donated 423 volunteer hours, 1,758 miles and 38 hours driving time in their personal vehicles, 42 E-mails were passed among members and a total of 3 hours telephone time between Rich, his members and officials.



ARRL VEC ANNOUNCES EXAM FEE INCREASE

On November 6, The ARRL VEC <<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/>> announced that as of January 1, 2009, the fee to take an ARRL Volunteer Examiner (VE)-administered Amateur Radio license exam will increase by \$1, from \$14 to \$15. According to ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, ARRL VE teams may retain up to \$7 of this fee to directly reimburse their teams' out-of-pocket examination expenses; currently, VE teams keep \$6. This is the first time in four years that the examination fee has been adjusted.

Somma said that the FCC allows VECs to collect an examination reimbursement fee from each candidate who takes one or more exam elements. "VEs and VECs may be reimbursed by examinees for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in preparing, processing, administering or coordinating an examination for an amateur operator license (FCC Rule 97.527)," she said <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr_2002/octqtr/pdf/47cfr97.527.pdf>. "These exam fees help the VEC recover its costs of providing its services."

Saying that every examinee at each ARRL coordinated examination session is charged the same fee in accordance with the annually-established fee schedule, "Any person sitting for an exam, or having a new license or upgrade processed at a test sessions, must pay the exam fee applicable for the calendar year," Somma explained. "The ARRL VEC's exam fee for calendar year 2009 is \$15. Each time a candidate pays one exam fee, they are entitled to take tests

for Elements 2, 3 and 4 as needed, up to all three elements under the single exam fee. Each time an examinee retakes an exam element (assuming the VE Team has different exam design available), another exam fee is charged."

VE teams may elect to keep a prescribed portion of each exam fee collected exclusively to offset expenses that are directly incurred in administering the VE program. "All out-of-pocket reimbursable expenses shall be necessary and prudent, and must relate to the examination process in some way," Somma said. "VECs and VEs are expected to use good business judgment with respect to reimbursement amounts. The examination reimbursement fee cannot be used to offset non-session related costs and must be kept separate from other accounts."

Somma pointed out that business expenses such as postal, utility, fuel and printing charges, are increasing: "Our VE teams are feeling the effects of the current economy, too! Teams are retaining reimbursement at amounts considerably larger than previous years. The amount of out-of-pocket costs that our VEs and the VEC are expending to provide authorized services in connection with Amateur Radio operator examinations continues to rise."

Recent ARRL VEC cost-cutting steps have included staff reduction, reduced printing charges of

(Continued on page 7)

Flipping the pages

For a job well done	1
VE exam fee increase	1
What’s Happening, Swapfests	2
What’s Happening, Club Meetings	2
Wisconsin Nets Association	4
The Computer Corner, Stan Kaplan	5
Monthly Wisconsin Section Manager News	6
BSSS CD ROM	8
What’s Happening, The Test Point - VE examinations.....	9
Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club.....	11
ELMER	12



WHAT’S HAPPENING

Swapfests and Other Social Events — Club Meetings Amateur Radio Exam Schedules

Edited by Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage WI 53901 — kenneth.ebnetter@verizon.net

Swapfests And Other Social Events

November 1, 2008. Milwaukee Repeater Club, Amateur Radio fest 2008. Elks Lodge 5555 W. Good Hope Rd., Milwaukee, WI. (Across the street from Amateur Electronic Supply). 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. For more information, <http://www.mrc91.org> or swapfest@mrc91.org or Dean Hoover (414) 507-8939.

Nov 15-16, 2008, Indiana State Convention (Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo). Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Avenue, Fort Wayne, IN. Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society. <http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com> Talk-In: 146.88 (-). Contact: James D. Boyer, KB9IH, PO Box 10342, Fort Wayne, IN 46851-0342. Phone: 260-579-2196. Email: chairman@fortwaynehamfest.com

December 13, 2008. Big Bend ARC. 4-H Extension Center, [550 North Madison, \(Hwy 94 N\)](http://www.react2u.com/bbarc.htm) Carthage, IL. <http://www.react2u.com/bbarc.htm> Talk-In: 147.105+ (PL 103.5) Contact: Kathy Dougherty, KB9WBD, c/o BBARC, PO Box 278, Carthage, IL 62321. Phone: 217-357-6004, Fax: 217-357-6004, Email: bbarc2004@yahoo.com

January 3, 2009. 37th Annual Midwinter Swapfest. West Allis Radio Amateur Club (WARAC). Waukesha County Expo Center Forum,

[1000 Northview Road](http://www.warac.org), Waukesha, WI. <http://www.warac.org>. Contact: Phil Gural, W9NAW, S67 W12944 Larkspur Road, Muskego, WI 53150-3435, Phone: 414-425-3649 Email: janphil68@att.net

January 24, 2009. The St. Louis & Suburban Radio Club, Gateway Center, [#1 Gateway Drive](http://www.slsrc.org), Collinsville, IL. <http://www.slsrc.org> Talk-In: 146.760 (no tone) & 146.97 (PL 141.3), Contact: Bill Coby, KB0MWG, The St. Louis & Suburban Radio Club, PO Box 2233, St. Louis, MO 63139. Phone: 314-504-1104. Email: bcoby@sbcglobal.net

January 25, 2009. WCRA Mid-Winter Hamfest. Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs. Kane County Fairgrounds, [525 South Randall Road](http://www.w9ccu.org), St. Charles, IL. <http://www.w9ccu.org> Talk-In: 145.39 (PL 107.2) & 146.52. Contact: John Faber, WT9Y, c/o WCRA, PO Box QSL, Wheaton, IL 60189. Phone: 630-604-0157. Fax: 630-604-0157. Email: info@w9ccu.org

March 08, 2009. Sterling Rock Falls Amateur Radio Society. Challand Middle School, [1700 6th Avenue](http://www.sterlinghamfest.com), Sterling, IL. <http://www.sterlinghamfest.com> Talk-In: 146.85 (PL 114.8), Contact: Lloyd Sherman, KB9APW, 25873 Capp Road, Sterling, IL 61081 Phone: 815-336-2434, Email: lsherman@essex1.com

March 14, 2009 20th Annual Ham Equipment Auction, Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club. Grace Lutheran Church, [202 West Grand Avenue](http://www.ecarc.org/auction.html), Eau Claire, WI. <http://www.ecarc.org/auction.html> Talk-In: 146.910 (PL 110.9), Contact: Jim Staatz, KI9H, 2939 Moon Avenue, Apt. 1, Eau Claire, WI 54703-1046. Phone: 715-415-1150 Email: KI9H@arrl.net

March 15, 2009. Wisconsin QSO Party. West Allis Radio Amateur Club. <http://www.warac.org/wqp>

April 3-4, 2009 AES Superfest. AES, Milwaukee.

June 07, 2009. Starved Rock Radio Club, Bureau County Fairgrounds, [West Peru Street, \(US Routes 6 and 34\)](http://www.qsl.net/w9mks/hamfest.htm), Princeton, IL. <http://www.qsl.net/w9mks/hamfest.htm> Talk-In: 146.955- (PL 103.5). Contact: James Clapp, KC9FGU, 921 North 24th Road, Oglesby, IL 61348. Phone: 815-481-6117. Fax: 815-646-4362. Email: starvedrockhamfest@hotmail.com

June 21, 2009. Six Meter Club of Chicago DuPage County Fairgrounds. [2015 Manchester Road](http://www.k9ona.com), Wheaton, IL. <http://www.k9ona.com> Talk-In: 146.370/146.970 (PL 107.2) or 146.520- K9ONA. Contact: Michael Huedepohl, WD9GJK, 3532 Raymond Avenue, Brookfield, IL 60513. Phone: 708-485-5481. Email: mhuedepohl@comcast.net

July 11, 2009. South Milwaukee ARC, Swapfest 09. American Legion Park. Shepard Avenue ●Oak Creek, WI. (414) 762-3235, Ask for Verne. P.O. Box 102, South Milwaukee, WI 53172. e-mail ryatex@aol.com

September 18-19, 2009. W9DXCC Convention. Northern Illinois DX Association. Holiday Inn. [1000 Busse Road](http://www.w9dxcc.com) Elk Grove Village, IL. <http://www.w9dxcc.com> Talk-In: 147.36. Contact: Bill Smith, W9VA, 2635 Crestwood Lane, Riverwoods, IL 60015. Phone: 847-945-1564. Email: w9va@aol.com

September 19-20, 2009. Peoria Superfest

2009. Peoria Area Amateur Radio Club. Exposition Gardens, [1601 West Northmoor Road](http://www.Peoriasuperfest.com) Peoria, IL. <http://www.Peoriasuperfest.com> Talk-In: 147.075+ (PL 103.5). Contact: John Coker, N9FAM, 133 Vonachen Court, East Peoria, IL 61611. Phone: 309-369-7428. Email: n9fam@comcast.net

Further information about hamfests in the area can be found at [bsss.org](http://www.bsss.org) or at <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests.html>. If your organization is sponsoring a Hamfest/Swapfest and would like us to list your event, please send the information to Ken Ebnetter, K9EN at the address on page 2 or to k9en@arrl.net



Appleton FOX CITIES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: Third Mondays, 7:00PM., Goodwill Community Center, 1800 S. Appleton Road, Menasha, WI. Information: Brian Long KB9LRD fcarc@w9zl.org Website: <http://www.fcarc.us>

Baraboo BADGERLAND AMATEUR TELEVISION SOCIETY (BATS) Check BATS Web page: <http://www.shopstop.net/BATS/>

Baraboo YELLOW THUNDER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: See the YTARC column elsewhere in this issue for meeting times and locations. For further information: <http://www.qsl.net/ytarc>.

Dubuque, IA GREAT RIVER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: First Monday of each month, 7 p.m. at the Red Cross Center, 2400 Asbury Road. The club serves the tri-state area. On the Web: <http://www.qsl.net/wb0lob/>. Information or questions to: N0hdc@aol.com.

Eau Claire EAU CLAIRE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: 2nd Tuesday - 7 p.m., Eau Claire Parks & Recreation, 1300 First Ave., Eau Claire, WI 54703. All hams and guests welcome. W9EAU repeater 146.91 MHz, tone 110.9 Hz. Information: Jim Staatz, KG9RA, President, P.O. Box 1867, Eau Claire, WI 54702-1867. Phone (715) 838-9108, Email kg9ra@ecarc.org. Web page: <http://www.ecarc.org>

Fond du Lac FOND DU LAC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meet-

(Continued on page 3)

Check us out on the web
at <http://www.bsss.org>

Badger State Smoke Signals

Amateur Radio Education and Information

CHAIRMAN/PUBLISHER/EDITOR: Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901. Telephone (608) 742-3560. e-mail to: kenneth.ebnetter@verizon.net

WEB SITE EDITOR: Dave Spearing, KB9CSW. kb9csw@arrl.net

TREASURER: Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage WI 53901.

EDITORIAL BOARD: Ken Ebnetter, K9EN; Don Evenson, K9JYX.

Subscription Rate

1 year (6 issues—bi-monthly) \$13.95

A subscription form is in this issue. Special club package reduced rates are available. For information, contact Ken Ebnetter, K9EN.

When to Send It

The closing date for each issue is the first of the month before the issue date. For example, the closing date for the May issue is April 1. The only exception is for participating clubs' minutes. Participating clubs are requested to send their material no later than FIVE DAYS after the club's meeting. For example, if a club meets on the 4th of the month, the material should be sent no later than the 9th of that month. This material is to be sent to the Editor.

Where to Send It

Address changes and corrections, and exchange papers should be sent to Ken Ebnetter.

Editorial material, photographs, and feature articles should be sent to Ken Ebnetter, K9EN.

Web page material should be sent to kb9csw@arrl.net Dave Spearing, KB9CSW

Inquiries about advertising should be directed to Ken Ebnetter.

Club, swapfest, and Test Point information should be sent to Ken Ebnetter.

Swapfest ADS should be sent to Ken Ebnetter, K9EN no later than eight weeks before the

events date.

Subscriptions should be sent, with check or money order, to Ken Ebnetter.

Conditions for Reprinting or BBS Posting Material from Badger State Smoke Signals

Permission is hereby granted to reprint articles or posting articles on radio or telephone bulletin boards from *Badger State Smoke Signals*, providing credit is given to the original author, publication in which the article first appeared, and to *Badger State Smoke Signals*.

This newspaper is produced by volunteer radio amateurs, and is non-profit. This newspaper is mailed from Portage, WI 53901.

Badger State Smoke Signals is incorporated as a Wisconsin non-stock, non-for-profit organization.

Editorial Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in editorials, guest editorials, columns, articles, and letters from readers are the opinions of the authors only, and do not, unless otherwise stated, express or imply endorsement by *Badger State Smoke Signals*, or by any other individual or organization.



(Continued from page 2)

ings: Second Monday at Moraine Park Technical College, Fond du Lac, WI. Time: 7 p.m. Sunday net: 7:30 p.m. CDT, K9IA repeater, 145.430 - PL 107.2 Information: Jack Heil, KG9IN, 920.922.1413. Email: kg9in@fdlhams.org Web: <http://www.fdlhams.org>.

Fort Atkinson
TRI-COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB second Thursday monthly except June, July, August & December, 7 p.m., at Dwight Foster Public Library in Fort Atkinson. ARES Net each Wednesday evening at 8 and club net Monday evenings at 8 on 145.49 repeater. Contact: Paul Marowsky, KD9PM, 920-674-4968., or John Satterlee, WA9SAB, 920.563.6381.

Germantown
WISCONSIN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Meetings: Last Wednesdays at the Germantown police department in Germantown. Doors open 7 p.m. Meeting time: 7:30 p.m. Guests are welcome! We have a 440 repeater. The freq is 442.875 + PL=127.3.

Grafton
Ozaukee Radio Club (ORC) Second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Grafton Multipurpose Senior Center, 1665 7th. Ave., Grafton, Wisconsin www.qsl.net/orc/.

Green Bay
GREEN BAY MIKE AND KEY CLUB Meetings: Second Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., Media Services area of J. M. Science Building at St. Norbert College in De-Pere. Information: Kevin at kb9sne@yahoo.com.

Green Lake
GREEN FOX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Greater Green Lake County area. Meetings: Third Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Green Lake Town Hall, intersection of County Highways K and N.

Houghton, MI area:
The CCRAA is the "Copper Country Radio Amateur Association" and they hold meetings the first Tuesday of each month at the Dollar Bay Fire Hall. Summer meetings (June, July, August, and September) are held at the CCRAA Clubhouse in Osceola (2 mi. S. of Calumet, MI)

Hudson
St. CROIX VALLEY RADIO AMATEURS: Meetings: Third Monday of every month at 7:15 pm or immediately following the nets which begin at 7:00 pm. A short business meeting is held followed by a program. The club meets at the St. Croix County Emergency Government Center, 1101 Carmichael Road, Hudson WI. All are welcome! Talkin and ARES/RACES repeater: 145.130 MHz, PL tone 110.9. The ARES/RACES net is held every Monday evening at 7:00 pm immediately followed by the St. Croix Valley Friendly Net also on 145.130. All check-ins are welcome. Web site: www.pressenter.com/~scvra/. Club repeater: 147.33 PL tone 110.9. For additional information contact: Lou Greub, WB9PVA, Secretary. e-mail: l.greub218pressenter.com

Hams and anyone interested in amateur radio invited to Saturday morning breakfasts (Dutch treat) at 7:45 AM. Location occasionally changes. Contact Connie, KC9GYM, E - m a i l <hellothere@pressenter.com>hellothere@pressenter.com>hellothere@pressenter.com> or phone (715) 386-2714 for current week's location. Informal information exchange or discussion group meetings usually held every Thursday

evening at the Hudson, WI City Library, 911 4th St., 6:30 - 8:30 PM., room 212. Contact Connie for specific information.

Juneau
ROCK RIVER RADIO CLUB Meetings: First Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., Dodge County Administration Building, 127 East Oak Street, Juneau, WI. ARES Nets: 146.64 (-600) Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Saturdays, 7278 KHZ, Alternate in 3.947 at 10:00 AM. & Wednesday, 1908 KHZ 8:00 PM, Wintertime.

La Crosse
Riverland Amateur Radio Club Meeting: First Tuesday. Gundersen Clinic, 1900 South Ave., La Crosse, WI. Basement Conference Room 1. Meeting at 7:00p.m. More information: <http://www.qsl.net/wr9arc> E-mail wr9arc@qsl.net Sunday night net at 8:00 pm on 146.970. Wednesday morning breakfast at 8:00 am at Ardie's restaurant. Friday lunch at Hooters in downtown La Crosse. <http://rarc.qth.com> E-mail: wr9arc@rarc.qth.com

Madison
SPACE PLACE AMATEUR RADIO CENTER No meetings. Located on U.W.-Madison campus. Guest operators are welcome to operate the U.W. Space Place Amateur Radio Station, N9UW. Information: Don Michalski, W9IXG, President, (608) 263-4685. Email: n9uw@sal.wisc.edu.

Madison
BADGER AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY University of Wisconsin - Madison/W9YT Meetings: Third Mondays at 7:00 p.m. in UW Union South. Room number posted on the Today in The Union board. Information: Don Michalski, W9IXG, (608) 263-4685. Email: w9ixg@arrl.org. Web: <http://www.qsl.net/w9yt>.

Madison
Madison DX Club, meetings are on every fourth Tuesday of each month; see <http://madisondxclub> for more details.

Madison
FOUR LAKES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: Third Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., Red Cross Building, 4860 Sheboygan Avenue, Room C, downstairs. First building west of Hill Farms State Office Building.

Manitowoc
MANITOWOC COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS (ManCoRad) Second Wednesday of each month. Club board meets at 6:30 p.m., and Regular meeting is at 7:30 p.m., at 1105 Fleetwood Drive, 2nd floor (Old County Shop building on northwest side of city.) For Additional information please see our club web-site www.w9dk.com or contact Fred Neuenfeldt, W6BSF, (920) 682-9312. Email: fredandpat@lakefield.net

Marinette WI
Menominee MI
Amateur Radio Club Meetings held second Thursday 7:00PM each month Spies Public Library, Menominee, MI Menominee Michigan in the basement. Guests welcome. Website: <http://w8pif.com>

Medford
Black River Amateur Radio Association Meetings: Normally the first Thursday of each month. Usual meeting time is 7 PM. Most meetings are held at the Taylor County Courthouse. Directions: Those attending should park in the main courthouse parking lot on the east side of the building, and enter using the main courthouse entrance or the sheriff's dept. entrance. Proceed to the lower level of the courthouse using the stairs or elevator. We meet in the "break room" on the lower level, near the Emergency Government office. Talk-in on the 147.15 repeater (114.8 Hz PL, +600 kHz offset) and 146.52 MHz simplex. Contact: Mike Schoenfuss, N9GHZ, P.O. Box 401, Abbotsford, WI 54405. Phone: (715) 223-3996.

Menomonie WI
Saturday coffee at Burger King, 544 Main Street, at 9 a.m. Social hour on 4th Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. at the Depot, 2616 Hills Court, north of Wal-Mart on highway 25 North, in January, March, April, and September through November. Guests welcome!

Milwaukee
GREATER MILWAUKEE DX ASSOCIATION Meetings: Fourth Monday of month, 7:30 p.m. Contact any GMDXA member, or Gary Schwartz, K9GS, (262) 363-4439. Email: garyk9gs@arrl.net.

Milwaukee
MILWAUKEE RADIO AMATEURS CLUB Meetings: Last Thursdays, 7:00 p.m. Redemption Lutheran Church, 4057 North Mayfair Road, Wauwatosa, WI. Mailing address: P.O. Box 070695, Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695. Phone 414-332-MRAC. e-mail w9rh@arrl.net Web: <http://www.w9rh.org> . Email: w9rh@arrl.net.

Northeast Area
NORTHEAST WISCONSIN DX ASSOCIATION Meetings quarterly: April 28, Marinette; August 25, Fox Valley; November 10, Green Bay. For specific information about meetings, check <http://home.new.rr.com/newdxa/>. Contact us at w9dxa@arrl.net.

Oak Creek
SOUTH MILWAUKEE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: First Wednesdays, Legion Post #434, Shepard Ave., Oak Creek, WI. In March and October the meetings are turned into Auction Nights.. The club WEB site is www.qsl.net/wa9txe

Onalaska (see La Crosse)

QCWA Chapter 55
QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS ASSOCIATION (QCWA) Wisconsin Chapter 55 meets the first Saturday of June and October. For information about Chapter 55, contact Ron Yokes, W9BCK, Secretary, 612 N. Pt Washington Road, Grafton, WI 53024-9703. (262) 375-1774. mailto:rrvokes@execpc.com.

QCWA Chapter 162
QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS ASSOCIATION (QCWA) Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter 162. Meetings: Third Monday in January, March, May, July, September, and November, 7:30 p.m., usually at Meadows Restaurant, Franksville, WI. Social events: Third Sundays in February, April, June, August, and October. Christmas party: Usually second or third Sunday in December.

QCWA Chapter 219
QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS ASSOCIATION (QCWA) NorthEastern Wisconsin-Upper Peninsula of Michigan (NEW-UP) Chapter 219 meets 4 times per year. Chapter 219 net on 3825 at 2200Z (2100Z during daylight time) the first Saturday of the month. Jim Callow, K8IR, Secretary, 1821 15th Ave., Menominee, MI 49858. jcallow@k8ir.com

Racine
LAKESHORE REPEATER ASSOCIATION Meetings: Last Tuesday, January, April, July, October. American Red Cross Building, 4521 Taylor Ave., Racine, WI.

Racine
RACINE MEGACYCLE CLUB Meetings: Second Mondays, 7:30 p.m., American Red Cross Building, 4521 Taylor Ave., Racine, WI. For a Map: <http://www.w9udu.org/rmcmap.gif> The Racine Hams Yahoo group is for listing of Ram Radio activities in and around Racine, WI and Southeastern Wisconsin. The group calendar can send e-mail notices about upcoming events. Activities listed for Racine County ARES (W19RAC); Racine Megacycle Club, (W9UDU); Lakeshore Repeater Association (KR9RK); Racine Amateur Television Society (RATS); QCWA Chapter 162 (K9AKG) and More. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Racine-Hams/>

Sheboygan
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: Second Tuesdays. 7 p.m., Sheboygan County Red Cross/Boy Scout Building, 2032 Erie

Avenue.

Shell Lake
Northland ARC meetings are held the first Saturday of each month after breakfast. Location: Schmitz's Economart Deli. Located on US Hwy.63 on the south end of Spooner. The meeting will start at approx. 8:00 AM. Breakfast usually starts by 7:30 AM. Come and see what we're about. Anyone, even if you're licensed or not and has an interest in ham radio is welcome to attend! Next Meeting: Sept 4th, 2004 at 8:00 AM. So Please plan to attend!!!! <http://home.centurytel.net/NorthlandARC/>.

Stevens Point
CWRA Ltd./UWSP ARC Meetings second Wednesday, of each month at 7:30 pm. Science Building on the UW-Stevens Point Campus, Room A107, Stevens Point, WI. Email: jglas776@uwsp.edu. Webpage: www.qsl.net/wb9qfw.

Superior
ARROWHEAD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB. Meetings on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Secondary Technical Center. The address is: 802 East Central Entrance - Duluth, MN 55811. The board meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm.

W.A.R. WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF REPEATERS
Quarterly meetings of the Wisconsin Association of Repeaters are held at various locations around the State in March, July and November. Check the WAR web page for meeting announcements and repeater coordination info. Information: <http://www.wirepeaters.org>.

Watertown
WATERTOWN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: First Thursdays of month, 7 p.m., Room S-114 of the Watertown High School, 825 Endeavour Drive, Watertown, WI 53098 at 7:00 PM on the first Thursday each month.

Waupaca
WAUPACA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB CQ First Tue. Social gathering and Dutch treat luncheon, King's Table, King, WI, on Highway QQ, just south of Highways 10 and 54, west side of Waupaca. Gather at 11 to 11:30. Order at noon. Club business transacted. CQ Third Fri. Social gathering and Dutch treat dinner. Semi-formal, OM and XYL, at one of the better supper clubs in the area. Check: Waupaca 147.39 nets at 8 a.m. or 8:50 p.m. for month's meeting location.

Wausau
WISCONSIN VALLEY RADIO ASSOCIATION Meetings: 7:00 pm the first Tuesday of the month except for July. The meeting location is the Marshfield Clinic, Wausau Center. Talk in is on 147.135 + PL 114.8. Website is www.wvraclub.org.

West Allis
West Allis Radio Amateur Club Second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 80th and Lincoln Ave., West Allis. Meetings in basement. Entrance at rear, off alley. Handicapped accessible. www.warac.org.

West Bend
WASHINGTON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: Second Saturday of each month at 8:30 am. Location is the Polk Town Hall, Highway 60 west of Jackson. For more information, call Mike, N9JIY at 262-627-0519, or inquire via the 146.730 with Echolink (K9SK) repeater.

Wisconsin Rapids
WISCONSIN RAPIDS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings are on the third Wednesday of each month and are held at the McMillan Memorial Library located on the corner of Lincoln St & E. Grand Ave. in Wisconsin Rapids, unless otherwise notified. The meetings start at 6:30 PM and end by 8:00 PM.

Wisconsin Nets Association Ltd.

Dean R. Herriges, KB9ROB, Secretary
W370 S9590 Highway 67 • Eagle, WI 53119

WISCONSIN NETS

Net	WNA	Freq.	UTC	CDT	Manager
BWN	YES	3985	1200	0600	W9IXG
BEN	YES	3985	1800	1200	WD9FLJ
WSBN	YES	3985	2315	1715	KB9KEG
WNN	YES	3555	0000	1800	KB9ROB
WSSN	YES	3555	0030	1830	N9JIY
WIN/E	YES	3555	0100	1900	WB9ICH
WIN/L	YES	3555	0400	2200	W9RTP
RCRA	NO	01/61	0130	1930	KA9OMC
(Mondays CDT— Menomonie Area)					
Green Bay Area	NO	72/12	0345	2145	WB9NRK
ARES	NO	4.65/5.25	0300	2100	
(South East/South Central Wisconsin)					
ARES/RACES (WRACES)	NO	3997.5	0000	1800	N9VAO
(Sundays)					

Wisconsin Section STM Report

STM Report Wisconsin Section July 2008

FAQ # 84 – “Signs, signs, everywhere signs. . .” Years ago, I told the story of how the minister kept calling me David during our wedding ceremony. My name is not David. I’d like to make that point again. No, not that my lovely XYL came close to being married to someone else. The idea I was explaining was how important a name is to its owner.

I’m proud of my call sign. I was proud of it when it was a novice call in 1958, and I still am. Each of us has the opportunity to build a reputation for our call sign and we become known by it. That is one reason it is so important for net control stations and those in net operation to get calls right.

The accuracy on which we pride ourselves in traffic handling should start with correct call signs – correct prefix and well as suffix. W’s, K’, AB’s, WA’s, WD’s, KC’s, AA’s, KB’s, KA’s, N’s, etc. are *not* interchangeable. If a net control operator needs clarification of a suffix, it should be given phonetically. How else can we keep good records? It’s great to know operators by name – but even more important to know the correct call. Please treat a call sign like a name. Get it right. So says your STM, Lenny, Kenny, Jenny, Benny, --- well, you get the idea.

73 – Denny - K9LGU/STM-WI

August 2008

FAQ # 85 – Phonetics? An astute reader of this report reminded me that not only in callsign sign identification – but especially in traffic handling – the use of phonetics is a big help. Even if all seasoned ‘phone traffic handlers use phonetics by reflex, it’s time to train new Hams. In fact, now is a good time to practice for the October 4th SET.

True, it is not necessary to spell out each common word, but quite often it becomes essential. One case is with homonyms (words that sound the same, not the stuff served with grits). Four, for, or fore? To, two, or too? N’s sound like M’s; E’s like T’s, B’s, and Z’s. Since

we’re aiming for perfect accuracy, we use the ITU phonetic alphabet – one we should all know – instead of making up our own. If we didn’t, we’d no doubt hear “That’s P - pterodactyl, E - Eau Claire, and M – mnemonic.” It’s “Kilo” – not “Kilowatt.” And, by the way, it’s not “Willie” – it’s “Whiskey.” I’ll drink to that.

73 – K9LGU/STM-WI

September 2008

FAQ # 86 – Roger who? When an operator receiving a formal message copies it accurately, he confirms his reception with one word – “Roger.” No, it doesn’t matter what the name of the sending operator is. It doesn’t matter to whom the message is addressed. The signature has no influence on this response. “Roger” means “Roger.” On CW, it’s “R” sometimes spelled Q-S-L.

Roger, of course, comes from the old phonetics for “R,” and “R” means “received.” It doesn’t mean “Yes.” (That’s “Affirmative.”) It doesn’t even mean, “Will comply.” (That would be “Wilco.”) In today’s phonetic alphabet, I suppose it could be said, “I’ll Romeo that,” but that’s still not in common use. So “Roger” it is.

What’s important to remember is what’s behind the response. It means the receiver has copied the message *exactly* as it was sent. If he or she knows the address is wrong, it’s still copied it as sent. If there’s a spelling or grammatical error in the text (and this isn’t easy), the receiver still copies it *exactly* as it is sent. If there’s a mistake in the wording – such as an unnecessary “x-ray” after an ARL numbered text – it is ignored and copied word-for-word. Obvious typo? Maybe not. The text remains constant. Only then can the receiving station respond with that famous word – “Roger.”

Getting the message passed perfectly should make the sender jolly – but I guess the Jolly Roger is a symbol for something else. 73 – K9LGU/STM-WI

October 2008

FAQ # 87 – Who’s who on the traffic nets? If you’re looking for some information on one of our fine section nets, you’ll find it on the ARRL Wisconsin page <http://www.arrl.org/sections/WI.html>. There, you’ll find calls of

(Continued on page 8)

WISCONSIN SECTION STATION ACTIVITY

WISCONSIN SECTION MONTHLY NET ACTIVITY SUMMARY JULY 2008

NET	QNI	QTC	QTR	SSNS	NM
BWN	2097	2532	4379	31	W9IXG
BEN	571	53	1193	31	WD9FLJ
WSBN	358	39	721	29	KB9KEG
WNN	91	3	208	19	KB9ROB
WSSN	77	6	193	28	N9JIY
WIN/E	154	19	231	28	WB9ICH
WIN/L	117	33	267	30	W9UW
WRACES	65	0	177	4	N9VAO
WRACES-D	No report				
		0	0	0	KB9MMC
TOTALS 3530	2658	7369	200		

AUGUST 2008

NET	QNI	QTC	QTR	SSNS	NM
BWN	2071	2441	4272	31	W9IXG
BEN	585	48	1175	31	WD9FLJ
WSBN	433	27	751	31	KB9KEG
WNN	112	8	246	24	KB9ROB
WSSN	147	8	248	29	N9JIY
WIN/E	152	17	222	28	WB9ICH
WIN/L	164	29	255	31	W9UW
WRACES	104	0	231	5	N9VAO
WRACES-D	No report				
		0	0	0	KB9MMC
TOTALS 3768	2578	7400	210		

SEPTEMBER 2008

NET	QNI	QTC	QTR	SSNS	NM
BWN	2133	2682	4108	30	W9IXG
BEN	533	50	1167	30	WD9FLJ
WSBN	459	25	1014	30	KB9KEG
WNN	89	8	231	24	KB9ROB
WSSN	146	7	253	30	N9JIY
WIN/E	153	28	246	29	WB9ICH
WIN/L	132	59	324	30	W9RTP
WRACES	92	0	222	4	N9VAO
WRACES-D – AUG 22					
		2	240	4	KB9MMC
TOTALS 3759	2861	7805	211		

OCTOBER 2008

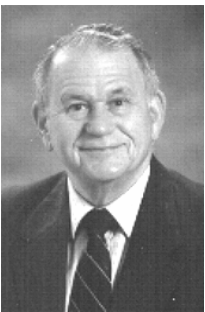
NET	QNI	QTC	QTR	SSNS	NM
BWN	2348	3019	4222	31	W9IXG
BEN	616	70	1389	32	WD9FLJ
WSBN	500	34	1262	31	KB9KEG
WNN	151	10	307	26	KB9ROB
WSSN	228	22	353	29	N9JIY
WIN/E	148	21	242	28	WB9ICH
WIN/L	110	33	259	31	W9RTP
WRACES	156	31	396	5	N9VAO
TOTALS 4257	3240	8430	213		

(Continued on page 7)

Check us out on the web at
<http://www.bsss.org>

The Computer Corner

by Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR
715 N. Dries Street
Saukville, WI 53080-1664
(262) 268-1949
skaplan@mcw.edu



No. 145. DIAGNOSING A COM- PUTER’S ILLS

The other day, my computer shut down all by itself. Hmm, I thought as it rebooted, what could be causing that? After it was back up and running, I just continued working away and finished my project. But, just in case, I carefully copied my work to the other four computers on my network (my wife’s across the room, and three in the basement: my general ham computer “Ham”, my Winlink 2000 computer “WLink” and the test computer I use for setting up ARES/RACES hard drives during rebuilding – “Basementest”). As I have written before, all of my machines have stuff I create kept on the E: drive, and all five E: drives are identical. So, I was covered. I sat back in my chair feeling confident, and it happened again, right in front of me. One moment my usual desktop was there, and the next moment I viewed a black screen with the machine rebooting itself. A puzzlement!

Well, we had been having some significant storms come through (the big ones in June, as many of you are unfortunately well aware). There had been some flickering of lights in the office, but no flickering occurred at the moment of shutdown, so I scratched that from my list of possible culprits. I knew that spontaneous rebooting could also be caused by a bad power supply, but I had replaced mine about a year ago with a pretty hefty job and I did not think that was it. The other possibility that came to mind was overheating of the CPU (the Central Processing Unit; the “main” chip on the motherboard). In many machines, the BIOS (Basic Input/Output System – contained in another chip on the motherboard) will monitor the CPU temperature and will shut down the machine if the CPU gets too hot. Clearly, some bench testing was in order.

I took the whole machine down to my bench and fired it up there. I entered the BIOS setup, and used the “Computer Health” section to look at the voltages. They were clearly within range – 11.87 VDC for the 12 VDC buss, and so on. Then, I noticed on this same screen that the CPU temperature was climbing – it was already up to 55° C (131° F) and still going up rather fast. I shut the machine down because a climbing temperature like that is not good. Modern CPUs can easily draw more than 100 watts, and we all know how hot a 100-watt light bulb can get. A CPU is on the order of only 2 or 3 inches square, and perhaps 3/8 inches high, and that is not very much surface

area to get rid of all that generated heat. So there is always a big metal heat sink on the CPU, with a fan on top to remove the heat so that the CPU does not cook itself. I had used SIW (System Information for Windows, a freebie I have mentioned before) to check the CPU fan just before shutting down, and it was working OK at about 3,000 rpm. No clues yet, so it was time to open the case for visual inspection.

Wow, a visual showed the problem! While the fan on top of the heat sink was certainly working, dust bunnies were clogging the perhaps 40 vertical, closely spaced fins of the heat sink. Those fins make quite a large surface area for heat dissipation, but only a small percentage of that surface area was dust free. That dust was clearly impeding the ability of the fan to blow heated air away from the CPU. I guessed (correctly) that this was the cause of the overheating.

To correct the problem, I unfastened the four screws holding the fan on the heat sink, and brushed the fan with a dry paintbrush while holding the fan over the end of my shop vac hose. When that was done, I used the paintbrush to gently release the dust from the fins of the heat sink, again keeping the shop vac hose close to the work area to suck up that dust. Finally, I blew the last traces of dust out of both the fan and the heat sink with canned air, and vacuumed out the entire computer case. After replacing the fan and the case panel, I booted up. The temperature climbed to only 52° C (125° F) and stayed there, nice and steady. My machine is back, working perfectly, and is being used to compose this article.

The point is, I solved a problem using a combination of simple tools and approaches. Before opening the case, I used the machine’s own BIOS to check the voltages (though a DVM would have done that, too), and free third party software (SIW) to tell me the fan was operating properly. Then I opened the case and used plain old visual inspection, which did reveal a possible problem. I proved that the dust was indeed the problem by observing a cooler, steady CPU temperature after cleaning up the fan and heat sink.

Often, simple approaches like this will solve the problem, but not always. Probably the best method to use when trying to solve more complex hardware problems is to open the case and disconnect everything but the video card (if there is one that is not built into the motherboard). That means unplugging the hard drive, the floppy, the CD-ROM, and removing any other cards plugged into the bus. Then reboot, to see if everything is working. If

it is, add back one item at a time, rebooting each time, until the problem reoccurs. When the problem resurfaces, it is very likely the last component that you plugged back in that is the cause. Replace it, and you should be home free. Maybe.

But what if unplugging all the power sucking components does not solve the problem? That leaves only two components – the motherboard itself and the power supply. I have heard from a number of techs that repair computers for a living that the single most common component that brings computers into the shop is the power supply. A bad one may work intermittently, confounding any efforts to isolate the problem. So, if you can, borrow a known good power supply and plug it in (you don’t need to install it in the case for this test – just unplug the old one and plug in the good one). The chances are that you will isolate the problem. If not, well then, think about a new motherboard.

Happy Computing!

No. 146. MICROSOFT .NET FRAMEWORK

At the Ozaukee Radio Club breakfast on 12Jul, Tom Oehler (W9LNL) came up with another good question. “What the heck is .NET Framework?” he said, and “Why do I need it?” Well, the simple answer to the latter question is that he does need it, and so do you. I routinely install .NET Framework on every computer I rebuild for ARES/RACES throughout the state (over 40 so far this year). And Jim Darrow (KB9MMC), ARES Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator for Digital Communications, queries me periodically to make sure I am still doing that. It is important not only for us hams as general computer users, but also especially as emergency communicators whenever we use digital modes.

So what is .NET Framework? Well, it is software (that should have been included in your Windows installation) that allows Unix or Linux or Macintosh or Windows computers to run programs. Thus, it is said that it is a cross-platform environment, because it is operating system independent (it works with all of them). That is rather important. The ham with the Mac who runs a program that calculates the distance from his station to a station in Anchorage, Alaska gets the correct answer. So does the ham using Windows, or the ham using Linux. Moreover, .NET allows software writers to more easily write programs, by including some commonly used programming subroutines from over 20 different programming languages. It also manages memory, periodically releasing memory back to your machine that is no longer being used for a specific process. It does this by a process known as “garbage col-

lection”, marking any items no longer attached to a specific programming step into a virtual garbage can and freeing up the memory those items were holding on to for other uses. You know, this description sounds a lot like the “memory managers” we used back in the 1980s and 90s, which were part of the operating systems we used back then. That is why the .NET Framework has been called by some an operating system in and of itself. It is used by software writers most new application programs created for the Windows platform, so you may well run into a “Requires .NET Framework Version X” message when you try to run a new program on a machine without the framework installed. As I alluded to above, it should really have been included with recent Windows versions, but until Vista, it was not. However, end-users can download and install it at no charge. I’ll tell you how later. First, here is a bit of history.

Microsoft started development on the .NET Framework in the late 1990s, calling it then the Next Generation of Windows Services. The first trial (beta) versions of .NET were released in 2000, and Version 1 came out in early 2002, for download, installation and use with Win98, NT 4.0, 2000 and XP. A major upgrade, .NET Framework 1.1, came out in 2003, and was also bundled with Windows Server 2003. Version 2 was released in 2005, and is the last version supporting Win98, 2000 and Me. Version 3 came out after that, and is bundled with Vista and Windows Server 2008. There is even a .NET 3.5, released at the end of 2007, with a compact version available for Windows CE and Windows Mobile operating systems. Newer versions are in the works that will be tailored to multi-core computers, so that parallel computing can be fully utilized. So the .NET Framework has a pretty long history, and it continues to be developed. But except for servers, Vista is the first version of Windows that has had this key software bundled within the operating system. Shame on you, Microsoft!

In a nutshell, the major benefit of .NET for those of us who are end users is that all the programs we want to run will work, and with fewer crashes and other undesired effects, and our web experiences will be enhanced no matter what platform we are using. For developers and software writers the major advantage is that programs will be a bit easier to write, and they will work more often for customers because routines that in the past had to be hand written are already included in .NET development packages.

So, .NET Framework is a necessary part of whatever version of Windows you use. But if you are using anything prior to Vista, it was left out of your operating system and getting it is up to you. Furthermore, you need both Version 1 (actually, 1.1 after updates are installed), and Version 2.

How do you get it and install it? First, I recom-

(Continued on page 8)

Check us out on the web
at <http://www.bsss.org>

WISCONSIN SECTION MANAGER REPORT

JULY 2008

WISCONSIN: SM: Don Michalski, W9IXG. BWN 3982.5 0500-0715 W9IXG. BEN 3985 1200 WD9FLJ. WSBN 3985 1715-1800 KB9KEG. WNN 3555 1800 KB9ROB. WSSN 3555 1830 N9JIY. WIN-E 3555 1900 WB9ICH. WIN-L 3555 2200 W9UW. (All times are Central time)

Regretfully, I am informing you of the passing of these Wisconsin Amateurs:

Frank Van Someren, W9AVX, 86. Frank was active in Army MARS. Robert Foster, N9UAR, 75.

Clyde Deitz, KF9QA, 71. Clyde was a member of Midstate Repeater Association.

Through a memorial gift to ARRL you can celebrate or honor the life or contributions of a family member or friend for whom Amateur Radio has been a passion. <http://www.arrl.org/development/memorial.html#top>

Congratulations to Patrick Weeks, KB9ULT, for being selected The Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc. 2008 WARAC Scholarship winner!

The OZARES September meeting will be a training session, FEMA courses IS-100 and IS-700. That is a good way to cover the material in one sitting!

Just what's an "ELMER"? A helper, a bud, a pal, a big brother, a mentor or what? An "ELMER" is one of best things that can happen for a new ham! Would you run before you can walk? Take it from me! My "ELMER" is Ralph Henes, W9CAR of Madison. This man exemplifies what this time honored tradition is all about! He is the guy behind the scenes, the man who is always ready for "just one more question". Ralph's the guy who's there for you! Not just lip service, this man has been there for me since February when I barely knew which side of the antenna went up. Ralph was the guy who encouraged me to take the General test to open up the world of HF! He was the guy who helped me set up my station and my first HF 80 meter loop antenna on a very hot and mosquito infested day. Ralph was there to show me how to do things right in a common sense practical way with answers for all my questions along the way. Many of my fellow new hams ask how I like the "Elmer" program and my reply is simple, would you go into this without help and try to find all the answers on your own or would you like to make the friendship of a lifetime? I have suggested to many new hams that an Elmer is the best thing next to slice bread and that Ralph is the "MAN"! I would encourage all of you to follow his example and watch out for the new people. Bob Paiva,

W9BYK w9byk@arrl.net

Riley Hollingsworth recently retired from the FCC. One of his more famous quotes worth remembering "Every time you get on the air, you need to decide what's most important to you ...the best interests of Amateur radio as a whole, or your own pride or ego or "rights". "

If you have a good photo of an event you would like posted on the Wisconsin site <http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=W1> please send it to me along with a short caption to go with it. I keep them up on the site for, at least, a few months!

AUGUST 2008

WISCONSIN: SM: Don Michalski, W9IXG, SEC: KB9ENO, STM: K9LGU, SGL: AD9X, OOC: KC9IS, PIC: KB9NUM, TC: K9GDF, BM: WB9NRK, ACC: N9LVS ASMs: K9UTQ, W9DGI, N9VE, KG8CX, KB9ENO.

Regretfully, I am informing you of the passing of these Wisconsin Amateurs:

Bill Manke, KB9NG, 67.

John Lund, K9AKI, 69.

Vicki Hess, W6OAE, 69. Vicki was a member of Eau Claire ARC.

Mel Amidzich, WA9PZU, 94.

George Benoit, N9UGG, 83. George was a member of M&M ARC

Correction from August newsletter: Frank Van Someren, W9AVX, was a member of Navy MARS (not Army MARS).

Through a memorial gift to ARRL you can celebrate or honor the life or contributions of a family member or friend for whom Amateur Radio has been a passion. <http://www.arrl.org/development/memorial.html#top>

The success of public service events hinges largely on a strong volunteer team. If you are coordinating the communications for these events, this is a reminder to be sure to form your team early- several months in advance of the event. If you start too late, those you were hoping to get may have other commitments.

Wisconsin QSO Party results are now final and available at this site: <http://www.warac.org/wqp/2008/08results.pdf>

For the second year in a row the winner of the Ozaukee Radio Club \$1000 scholarship is Ms. Natalie Harding, KC9KIR. Congratula-

tions on your being an "honors" student at Oshkosh and best wishes toward your continued success!

A reminder that Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) is coming up October 18, 19. Full rules are at this site: <http://www.arrl.org/scouts/jota> We hope that your club takes part!

Operating with a clean SSB signal. One of the biggest problems we OOs hear on the air are with stations that are splattering, using up too much spectrum, resulting in not being a good neighbor and upsetting adjacent stations. Most times it is due to using too much microphone gain. If you don't have the benefit of monitoring your RF signal with an oscilloscope then your best friend is the ALC meter on your radio. Adjust your microphone gain until you get some ALC action but not too much and never, ever, exceed the ALC window! This is especially true when using an amplifier. Also, if using a voice processor to boost your average power, be sure to not use too much compression. A little is all you need to enrich your signal while not sounding over-processed. If in doubt, ask for signal reports from other stations. And, conversely, if you are asked for a signal report, be truthful! 73, Don, W9IXG

SEPTEMBER 2008

WISCONSIN: SM: Don Michalski, W9IXG. BWN 3982.5 0500-0715 W9IXG. BEN 3985 1200 WD9FLJ. WSBN 3985 1715-1800 KB9KEG. WNN 3555 1800 KB9ROB. WSSN 3555 1830 N9JIY. WIN-E 3555 1900 WB9ICH. WIN-L 3555 2200 W9UW. (All times are Central time)

Regretfully, I am informing you of the passing of these Wisconsin Amateurs:

Bessie Beider, N9QIT, 89. Bessie was an active member of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs Club and Milwaukee Repeater Club.

Bob Fallis, W8BAR, 86. Bob was killed in an auto accident. He was one of the founding members of Eau Claire ARC. Monty Sorum, KA9MIT, 40. Arthur Phillips, KC9FNE, 46.

Through a memorial gift to ARRL you can celebrate or honor the life or contributions of a family member or friend for whom Amateur Radio has been a passion. <http://www.arrl.org/development/memorial.html#top>

From KG8CX: As Assistant Section Manager for Wisconsin Youth, I envision the need to communicate with the younger ham radio operators of Wisconsin, age 19 and under. I would like their names, callsigns, and email addresses which will be used to create a database which I can then use to create a resource for them, keep them informed about upcoming events, and the opportunity to connect with them on topics related to ham radio and youth. I am also planning a periodic newsletter with the focus on the young ham operator. It will also give the young hams of Wisconsin a person to direct questions and comments to regarding ham radio as it relates to the youth of our state. If you can, send me the above informa-

tion. Let the youth in your area and club membership know that there is a statewide group just for them. Check out one such group <http://www.wd8dx.com/yacht.html> which is made up of 37 young hams ages 6 to 18 from seven states including Wisconsin. My email is kg8cx@new.rr.com

Remember,..." our youth is the future of ham radio." Thank you for your assistance and support, 73, Ed Engleman, KG8CX ASM for Youth, ARRL Wisconsin Section. <http://w8pif.com> <http://www.wd8dx.com/yacht.html> <http://www.qrz.com/k8kdz>

JOTA-- Remember that Jamboree On The Air is this weekend! Details are available at this site: <http://www.arrl.org/scouts/jota/>

The 10th annual Wisconsin ARES/RACES conference will be held October 25, 26 in Wisconsin Rapids. To register, go to this site: <http://www.wi-aresraces.org/2008confreg.htm>

You must register by October 16! On Sunday we will have a Bus O'Rama! We are asking folks from around the state to bring their mobile communications vehicles (motorized or not) and units to allow everyone to tour them, ask questions, share ideas, and learn. Anyone with an interest in ARES/RACES is welcome. We hope to see you there!

I see, by reading the newsletters I receive, that this is the time of year when many clubs are looking for new officers for the next year. We hope that you seriously think about becoming an officer or board member and step up to the plate. It would be good for you and the club!

We have two great hamfests coming up! I hope to see you at the Milwaukee Repeater Club Fest on November 1 http://www.mrc91.org/swapfest_flyer.pdf and on November 2 I will be at the Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club Swapfest <http://www.fcarc.us/hamfest.php> in Appleton. I'll bring along my ARRL membership kit and will have some excellent incentive offers for you to renew through me!

OCTOBER 2008

WISCONSIN: SM: Don Michalski, W9IXG, SEC: KB9ENO, STM: K9LGU, SGL: AD9X, OOC: KC9IS, PIC: KB9NUM, TC: K9GDF, BM: WB9NRK, ACC: N9LVS ASMs: K9UTQ, W9DGI, N9VE, KG8CX, KB9ENO.

Regretfully, I am informing you of the passing of these Wisconsin Amateurs:

John Koehler, W9DGB, 94. John was a life member of ARRL.

Bob Fetterly, N9HWP, 53 . Bob was a member of MRAC and WARAC.

Oran Bushman, N9VIA, 83. Oran was a member of Mancorad Amateur Radio Club.

Through a memorial gift to ARRL you can celebrate or honor the life or contributions of a family member or friend for whom Amateur Radio has been a passion. <http://www.arrl.org/development/memorial.html#top>

(Continued on page 10)

Check us out on the web at <http://www.bsbs.org>

WISCONSIN SECTION STATION ACTIVITY

STATION ACTIVITY SUMMARY						October 2008									
July 2008															
STATION	ORIG	RCVD	SENT	DLVD	TOTAL	STATION	ORIG	RCVD	SENT	DLVD	TOTAL				
KA9EKG	44	609	598	7	1258 -BPL	KA9EKG	49	652	620	47	1368				
K9LGU	1	37	47	1	86	K9LGU	0	45	66	1	112				
AG9G	0	11	56	0	67	WD9FLJ	1	37	7	2	47				
WD9FLJ	0	27	10	1	38	AG9G	0	1	45	0	46				
K9FHI	0	0	31	0	31	W9RTP	0	37	7	1	45				
KB9KEG	4	19	3	1	27	KB9KEG	3	27	0	3	33				
AA9BB	0	0	27	0	27	K9GU	0	0	28	0	28				
K9GU	0	0	26	0	26	W9UW	0	5	14	2	21				
W9UW	0	20	2	1	23	W9PVD	0	0	1	0	1				
WB9ICH	0	13	2	0	15	P S H R SUMMARY									
KB9ROB	0	8	5	2	15	July 2008									
KN9P	0	3	2	2	7	CALL	1	2	3	4	5	6	T		
W9PVD	0	0	1	0	1	WD9FLJ	40	38	20	85	30	10	223		
AUG 2008						K9LGU	40	40	30	30	5	0	145		
STATION	ORIG	RCVD	SENT	DLVD	TOTAL	AG9G	40	40	20	20	0	0	120		
KA9EKG	46	641	563	35	1285 – BPL	KB9KEG	40	19	30	15	0	10	114		
AG9G	0	10	51	0	61	August 2008									
K9LGU	0	22	34	3	59	CALL	1	2	3	4	5	6	T		
WD9FLJ	1	30	6	2	39	WD9FLJ	40	39	20	45	20	10	174		
KB9KEG	3	26	3	0	32	K9LGU	40	40	30	40	5	0	155		
K9GU	0	0	32	0	32	AG9G	40	40	20	20	0	0	120		
K9FHI	0	0	31	0	31	KB9KEG	40	40	30	0	0	10	120		
W9UW	0	13	2	1	16	September 2008									
KB9ROB	0	9	3	1	13	CALL	1	2	3	4	5	6	T		
WB9ICH	0	10	2	0	12	WD9FLJ	40	35	20	25	25	10	155		
KN9P	0	2	3	2	7	K9LGU	40	40	30	15	0	0	125		
W9PVD	0	0	1	0	1	AG9G	40	40	20	20	0	0	120		
September 2008						W9RTP	40	40	20	0	0	0	100		
STATION	ORIG	RCVD	SENT	DLVD	TOTAL	KB9KEG	19	32	30	5	0	10	96		
K9LGU	0	34	50	1	85	October 2008									
AG9G	0	11	47	0	58	CALL	1	2	3	4	5	6	T		
W9UW	0	9	27	0	36	WD9FLJ	40	40	20	85	0	10	195		
K9FHI	0	0	30	0	30	AG9G	40	40	20	30	0	0	130		
WB9ICH	0	16	2	0	18	K9LGU	40	40	30	5	0	0	115		
W9RTP	0	37	6	0	43	W9RTP	40	40	20	0	0	0	100		
KB9ROB	0	11	4	0	15	KB9KEG	23	33	30	0	0	10	96		
WD9FLJ	0	28	6	1	35										
KB9KEG	0	26	0	3	29										
W9PVD	0	0	1	0	1										
K9GU	0	0	24	0	24										
KA9EKG	56	642	602	44	1351										

ARRL VEC ANNOUNCES EXAM FEE INCREASE

(Continued from page 1)

ARRL VE training material and exam software, renegotiating shipping and printing contracts and eliminating lesser-used services.

"Only so many cost-cutting measures can be justified without cutting back significantly on services essential to our VE teams, our customers and our program," Somma said. "As a result, an adjustment was needed in the 2009 exam reimbursement fee if we intended to maintain the basic levels of service that our VEs, VE teams and candidates have come to expect."

Somma said that the ARRL VEC permits its VEs to retain a portion of the exam fees they collect to directly reimburse themselves for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in setting up and conducting their examination sessions. "As long as the expense is warranted and has been prudently incurred -- and the expense is specifically related to exam administration -- then the fee can be retained," she said. "The team should keep a complete record of the expenses paid

(with receipts) in team records for two years. Records must be made available to the ARRL VEC upon request. Costs not related to the exam session processes or paperwork are not reimbursable."

"We believe that the ARRL VEC's level of assistance and services are outstanding," said ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B. "Exam supplies, such as paperwork and software, shipping costs both to and from the VEC and ARRL VE accreditation, as well as credentials, are all free of charge for our VEs. We maintain a toll-free number for our VEs and we even offer reimbursement to the VE team for their expenses. We appreciate the dedication and volunteerism of all our VEs in the field. This is why we offer so many services free of charge. This is why we have that same level of duty and commitment here. Every test fee we collect goes right back into the VEC program and to serving the Amateur Radio community."

-- *The ARRL Letter*

A BIT OF THIS AND THAT

FCC Vanity Call Sign Fees to Increase
September 25: The FCC will increase the vanity call sign fee from \$11.70 to \$12.30, effective September 25, 2008.

It has come to our attention that many of the e-mail addresses on our web site listing are outdated. It would be appreciated if you could check the listing. If your listing is wrong let us know.

Also please check your hamfests, club meetings and VE exam information.

I had surgery last August to replace my right knee. The surgery, physical therapy and healing have all come along good and I am able to get around. I missed making the Hamfests

this fall but will be making the Hamfests again after the first of the year.

Unfortunately, this has put me behind on preparing the October issue of BSSS. Since much of the information would be outdated, I have combined the October and December issues into this issue. Your subscription expiration date will be extended.

Web page material should be sent to kb9csw@arrl.net Dave Spearing, KB9CSW. A copy to me would also be appreciated.

Ken Ebnetter, K9EN, k9en@arrl.net

Check us out on the web at <http://www.bsss.org>

Wisconsin Section STM Report

(Continued from page 4)

the net managers, net control stations, a list of those who frequently frequent the frequency of the nets, and even a routing guide for in-state traffic. If you're new to the nets, here are some special operators I'd like you to meet -

W9IXG, our super SM, is also the Net Manager for the Badger Weather Net, which accounts for 55% of the section net check-ins and 93% of the total traffic. WD9FLJ serves as the Net Manager for the Badger Emergency Net, which meets every noon on 3.985 MHz. and has handled 548 pieces of traffic so far this year. The Wisconsin Side Band Net is under the watchful eye of its Net Manager, KB9KEG, who would be pleased to send you a net certificate for checking in 30 of 90 sessions, if you send him a radiogram.

KB9ROB is the Wisconsin Novice Net Manager and instructs his net control stations to always respond to those checking in at the same CW speed as the sender. N9JIY has added some new net controls to the Wisconsin

Slow Speed Net to fill the roster. Look for N1KSN, who joins great ops like W9MFG, WZ9I, W9GHT, and AG9G in the NCS job for the WSSN. He especially thanks KF9ME, W9MFG, and AG9G for filling in while he was on vacation. Larry, WB9ICH, is always looking for net control operators and 9RN liaisons on WIN/E – the Wisconsin Intrastate Net / Early. He's often the NCS himself, by default, but would really welcome some help. Dust off your key. When stations come back from 9RN, they usually arrive first at WIN/L where George, W9RTP, is the new Net Manager following the multi-year, very successful term of W9UW.

All of the net managers, net control operators, and those who check in to the section nets enjoy serving the public by keeping their traffic-handling skills in shape. They appreciate being part of the teamwork on a traffic net. They like being part of the National Traffic System. You will, too.

73 – K9LGU/STM-WI

The Computer Corner

(Continued from page 5)

mend you get and install both .NET Framework versions 1.1 and 2.

For 1.1, using Windows 2000, XP or XP Professional X64, Vista Enterprise/Home Basic/Premium/Starter/Ultimate, go to this site (or just search for NET FRAMEWORK 1):

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyId=262D25E3-F589-4842-8157-034D1E7CF3A3&displaylang=en>

Follow the instructions for downloading (23.1 Mb), which will create an installation program (be sure to note where that installation program is saved on your machine. You really should have all downloads go to your desktop. Close all your other programs before you install it by clicking the filename.

For version 2, if you are using Windows 98 or 98se, ME, Windows 2000 with at least Service Pack 3, or XP with at least Service Pack 2, go to this site (or just Search for NET FRAMEWORK):

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=0856eacb-4362-4b0d-8edd-aab15c5e04f5&displaylang=en>

Do the same as noted above to download it (22.4 Mb) and install it.

If your installation of one or both was successful, you are not quite done! Go to the Windows Update page (click START, Windows Update) have the site scan your computer for needed updates. It may well find some for .NET Framework. Let the site download and install any updates that are available (this is a safe, well-designed site; congrats are due Microsoft for doing it correctly). If you have never visited this site before, it may well find other updates you

need – let it install all of them. It is prudent to do this twice because there may be updates to the updates (!). Do it twice – that is what I do.

Here is an out if you GET INTO TROUBLE and want to uninstall either version. Go to this site:

http://astebner.sts.winisp.net/Tools/dotnetfx_cleanup_tool.zip

Download the file, unzip it and run it. This will remove any version of .NET on your machine, including any updates, better than trying to uninstall from the Control Panel. Perhaps you now wish to try the installation again. Happy Computing!

BADGER STATE SMOKE SIGNALS
CD ROM—NOW AVAILABLE

BADGER STATE SMOKE SIGNALS
YELLOW THUNDER SMOKE SIGNALS
WISCONSIN NETS ASSOCIATION BULLETINS
WISCONSIN AMATEUR HERALD (K9KSA)
AND MORE

WISCONSIN AMATEUR RADIO HISTORY FROM 1969 TO NOW
ALL SCANNED IN AND CONVERTED TO .PDF FORMAT

ALL ON 4 CDs—SAVES MANY FEET OF SHELF SPACE

REGULAR PRICE \$100.00

INTRODUCTORY PRICE OF \$65.00

GETS YOU THE 4 CDs (shipping included)

OVER 7000 PAGES

Badger State Smoke Signals
Kenneth A. Ebnetter
822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901
(608) 742-3560
k9en@arrl.net

BADGER STATE SMOKE SIGNALS

Subscription Form
Regular Individual Subscription Rate
1 Year (6 issues): \$13.95
PLEASE PRINT ☐ New ☐ Renewal

Name _____

Call Sign (if any)_____

Address: _____

City: _____State: _____ZIP: _____

E-mail address: _____

Send me my BSSS by e-mail ☐
Send me my BSSS by mail ☐
Send me my BSSS by both ☐

Send to:
Kenneth A. Ebnetter
822 Wauona Trail,
Portage, WI 53901

The Test Point



Amateur Radio Examination Locations and Schedules in the Area

October 04, 2008	Madison, WI
October 04, 2008	St. Paul, MN
October 09, 2008	Apple Valley, MN
October 11, 2008	Blaine, MN
October 11, 2008	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
October 16, 2008	Iron River, MI
October 18, 2008	Rockford, IL
October 18, 2008	Eau Claire, WI
October 18, 2008	Janesville, WI
October 18, 2008	Portage, WI
October 25, 2008	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
October 25, 2008 .	Tomahawk, WI
November 01, 2008	Madison, WI
November 01, 2008	St. Paul, MN
November 01, 2008	Menomonie, WI
November 02, 2008	Menasha, WI
November 08, 2008	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
November 08, 2008	La Crosse, WI
November 08, 2008	Adams, WI
November 08, 2008	Blaine, MN
November 08, 2008	La Crosse, WI
November 13, 2008	Apple Valley, MN
November 15, 2008	Rockford, IL
November 15, 2008	Sheboygan, WI
November 20, 2008	Iron River, MI
November 29, 2008	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
December 06, 2008	Madison, WI
December 06, 2008	St. Paul, MN
December 06, 2008	Racine, WI
December 07, 2008	Marshfield, WI
December 11, 2008	Apple Valley, MN
December 13, 2008	Blaine, MN
December 13, 2008	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
December 13, 2008	Fond du Lac, WI
December 18, 2008	Iron River, MI
December 20, 2008	Rockford, IL
January 03, 2009	Waukesha, WI
January 03, 2009	Madison, WI
January 03, 2009	St. Paul, MN
January 08, 2009	Apple Valley, MN
January 10, 2009	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
January 10, 2009	Blaine, MN
January 15, 2009	Iron River, MI
January 17, 2009	Sheboygan, WI
January 17, 2009	Rockford, IL
January 17, 2009	Janesville, WI
January 31, 2009	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
January 31, 2009	Tomahawk, WI
February 07, 2009	Madison, WI
February 07, 2009	St. Paul, MN
February 12, 2009	Apple Valley, MN
February 14, 2009	Blaine, MN
February 14, 2009	Appleton, WI
February 14, 2009	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
February 19, 2009	Iron River, MI
February 21, 2009	Rockford, IL
February 28, 2009	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
February 28, 2009	Tomahawk, WI
March 07, 2009	St. Paul, MN
March 07, 2009	Madison, WI
March 08, 2009	Sterling, IL
March 12, 2009	Apple Valley, MN
March 14, 2009	Blaine, MN
March 14, 2009	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
March 14, 2009	Sheboygan, WI
March 19, 2009	Iron River, MI
March 21, 2009	Rockford, IL
March 28, 2009	Tomahawk, WI
April 04, 2009	Madison, WI
April 04, 2009	St. Paul, MN
April 09, 2009	Apple Valley, MN
April 11 2009	Blaine, MN

April 11 2009	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
April 16, 2009	Iron River, MI
April 18, 2009	Rockford, IL
April 25, 2009	Tomahawk, WI
April 25, 2009	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
May 02, 2009	Madison, WI
May 02, 2009	St. Paul, MN
May 09, 2009	Blaine, MN
May 09, 2009	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
May 14, 2009	Apple Valley, MN
May 16, 2009	Rockford, IL
May 21, 2009	Iron River, MI
May 30, 2009	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
May 30, 2009	Tomahawk, WI

Monthly, 1st Sat.	Madison, WI
Monthly, 1st Sat.	St. Paul, MN
Monthly, 2nd Thu.	Apple Valley, MN
Monthly, 2nd Sat.	Blaine, MN
Monthly, 2nd Sat.	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
Monthly, 3rd Thu.	Iron River, MI
Monthly, 3rd Sat.	Rockford, IL
Monthly, Last Sat.	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
(Except Mar., Jun., Aug., & Dec.)	
Monthly, Last Sat.	Tomahawk, WI
(January thru October only)	

GENERAL RULES FOR MOST EXAMINATIONS:

Be sure to check with sponsors before going to an examination session. There may be changes and/or errors in the dates or information given. Some examinations require filing an FCC or NCVEC Form 605 and advance registration at least 30 days before the exam date. Some VE teams permit walkins. Check with the sponsor.

Many hamfests and swapfests offer examinations. A Hamfest entrance fee should not be charged if you come only to attend the examination. To register in advance, you must get a copy of the current FCC Form 605, and fill it out completely and correctly. Get your form from the FCC as instructed below, or from the American Radio Relay League, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111. Please send an SASE if you request a form from the League. FCC Field Offices seldom stock forms. You can also get a form from

<http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html>
or
<ftp://ftp.fcc.gov/pub/Forms/Form605>.

A form by FAX is available at (202) 418-0177 (request Form 000605). The FCC Forms Distribution Center will accept orders at (800) 418-3676. Form 605 has a main form, plus a Schedule D with two parts (for Vanity and Physician's Certifications). Forms can also be obtained from the sponsoring group.

See QST, W1AW bulletins, or The ARRL Letter regarding any annual exam fee changes. Test fees: The ARRL/VEC has set its 2009 test fee at \$15.00. FCC requires applicants to show their original amateur license or CSCE to the VE team. You must also have a good copy of your license or CSCE. A copy of your license or CSCE must be attached to your FCC form 605 and most VE teams need a copy for their records. One good CSCE copy is sufficient. You are also be required to have a photo ID, or two other forms of ID. Contact the VE team for details.

Technician class licensees must show proof of testing before March 21, 1987, in order to upgrade to General. Proof must be either in the form of a pre-3/21/87 license document or a "Letter of Verification of Technician License Held Prior to 1987" as requested in writing from the FCC, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245. For those with internet access, a listing of exam sessions is available from:

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.phtml>

By checking this page, you can find registered VE sessions anywhere in the US and some overseas. You can search by country, state or zip code. The listing is not specific to any particular VEC. It is a master database. Thanks to Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, ARRL/VEC.

Adams, WI
Adams City Fire Dept., 101 N. Main St., Highway 13, Adams, WI. Contact Edward J. Wagner (608) 584-4858. ab9fn@yahoo.com

Appleton, WI
Fox Cities ARC (ARRL/VEC) All regular test sessions are held at the American Red Cross Building, 1302 East Wisconsin Ave. in Appleton. Testing starting at 8 a.m. No walk-ins after 9 a.m. For information, contact George R. Croy, W9MDP, 2113 Twin Willows Drive, Appleton, WI 54914. (920) 730-0967. Email: w9mdp@arrl.net.

Eau Claire, WI
Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club. Grace Lutheran Church, 202 W., Grand Ave. Enter off 2nd Avenue entrance, Eau Claire, WI
Technician, General and Extra Class exams. Walkins welcome. Examination session coordinator: Jonathan E., Case, (715) 834-1540. www.ecarc.org. w9eau@ecarc.org.

Fond du Lac, WI
Fond du Lac ARC (ARRL/VEC). Community United Methodist Church, 701 Minnesota Ave., North Fond du Lac. 9:00 a.m. Walk-ins allowed. Contact: Douglas J. Schultz, 920-922-3088, n9ezf@fdlhams.org

Houghton, MI
V.E. Exams at Michigan Tech. University in Houghton, MI will be held in the ballroom of DHH (Douglass Houghton Hall at Michigan Tech). Free Parking in Lot #14, front of DHH, across from Wadsworth Residence Hall. Use door #9 on the South-East side of DHH. Contact Glenn Ekdahl, WA8QNF at (906) 482-7743 if you have questions.

Iron Mountain, MI
Sponsor: W5YI VEC. Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-Ins Allowed). Contact: Mark J Lewis, (906) 774-6598. VEC: W5YI VEC. Location: Dickinson County Library, 401 South Iron Mountain St., Arrival Time: 9:00 AM. Conference Room, Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Iron River, MI.
Sponsor: Iron Range ARA (IRARC). Time: 6:30 PM (No walk-ins). Contact: Dan R Waters, (906)265-4240. Email: dmwaters@ironriver.tv VEC: W5YI VEC. Location: Iron River Lutheran Church, Across From Mc Donald's. Pre-Registration Required. If no applicants - No testing. Iron River, MI 49935

Janesville, WI
Saint John Lutheran Church, Conference Room, 292 N. Parker Drive, upper parking entrance. Janesville, WI. Contact Scott A. Fry, (608) 449-8513. e-mail: radarkilowatt@aol.com

La Crosse, WI (ARRL/VEC).
Sponsor: Riverland Amateur Radio Club Location: American Red Cross-2927 Losey Blvd. LaCrosse, WI Time: 9:00a.m. (Walk-Ins OK) Contact: Roger Reader 608-783-0723 read-ers@centurytel.net.

Madison, WI
The Madison Wisconsin, Four Lakes Amateur Radio Club-sponsored VE testing has moved to the new University of Wisconsin Space Place, 2300 South Park Street, lower level, Madison, WI in the Villager shopping center complex. Exams are given the first Saturday of the month, from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM, no appointment is necessary. Questions may be directed to Carolyn Kammen, NQ9A at 608-246-0225 (home phone) or sent to NQ9A@arrl.net.

Marshfield, WI
Sponsored by the Marshfield Area ARS. 6:00 p.m., walk-in allowed. Saint Joseph's Hospital, 611 Saint Joseph Ave., Room 124, Hospice South Bldg., Marshfield, WI 54449. Contact: Richard L. Nesbitt, (715)384-3489. Email: Nesbitt@charter.net

Mauston, WI
Location is the Mauston City Hall, from 9am - noon. Holding testing sessions here quarterly for all elements. Walk-ins always welcomed and Talk-in via the 146.850 (pl 123.0) repeater. The contact person is myself dave@n0trq.com or 08-548-2271. Sponsored by Juneau County Amateur Radio Club (JCARC).

Menasha, WI
Location: Sabre Lanes, 1330 Midway Rd. Menasha, WI 54952, Sponsor: Fox Cities ARC Hamfest. ARRL/VEC. Time: 8:00 AM (No walk-ins). Contact: George R Croy, (920)730-0967. Email: W9MDP@ARRL.NET. VEC:

Menomonie, WI (ARRL/VEC)
Sponsored by the Dunn County Area Amateurs Location: University of Wisconsin, 121 10th Avenue, UW Stout Millennium Hall, NW Entrance, Menomonie, WI 54751. Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed). Contact: James L. Guenther, (715)232-2625. Email: guentherj@uwstrout.edu

Menominee, MI
Marinette-Menominee Amateur Radio Club. Location: The cafeteria of Bay Area Med Center, US-41 in Menominee. Building located next to KFC just off the Interstate Bridge. All classes given. Advance notice preferred, but not required. Test fee is \$10 with two pieces of identification required. Contact Jeff Rymer, N9PQU at jrymer@ez-net.com or Ed Engleman, KG8CX, at dxer@cybrzn.com. We will monitor the 147.000 (107.2 pl) repeater in event further directions or info is needed.

Merrill, WI
Merrill Amateur Radio Group. 3:15 p.m. (Walk-ins allowed). Contact: Myron J. Oestreich (715) 355-6902 e-mail: kb9stb@margdx Location: Gail's Place, n4090 Cth. K, Lincoln Center Banquet Hall.

Milwaukee, WI
MRAC VEC, Inc. holds 10 test sessions throughout the year. Regular sessions are held at Amateur Electronic Supply (AES) on the last Saturday of January, February, April, May, July, September, October, and November. We also test during the West Allis RAC Swapfest held in January, on the Saturday of AES's SuperFest.

AES is at 5710 W. Good Hope Rd., Milwaukee. (Watch for signs directing you to the proper room.) The session during West Allis RAC's Swapfest is held at AMF Lanes across the street from the Waukesha Expo at 901 North-view Rd.

Regular sessions run from 9:30 to 11:00. Superfest and Swapfest sessions start at either 8:30 or 9:00 (watch for flyers) and run until 11:00. The cost is \$5.00. Please bring a form of ID (driver's license is fine), and both the original and photocopy of your ham license (if applicable) and any CSCE. There is no advance registration; merely show up and sign in. For additional information, contact Tom Fuszard, KF9PU, at tom@supremecom.biz, or call 262-789-7975.

Negaunee, MI. Sponsor: HIAWATHA ARC. Time: 8:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed). Contact: Richard E Schwenke, (906)249-3837, Email: n8gba@chartermi.net VEC: ARRL/VEC. Location: Health Dept Bldg (Downstairs), 184 US 41 E, Entrance @ Back of building. Negaunee, MI 49866

Oshkosh, WI (Omro)
Oshkosh VE Team Amateur Radio exams monthly on the second Saturday. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and exams will be given from 9 a.m. until noon. Omro Community Center, 130 W. Larrabee, Omro, WI. Walkins welcomed. Bring a good quality photocopy of your original license and any other necessary documents such as a CSCE, etc. The first session will be through W5YI/VEC, and

(Continued on page 10)

The Test Point



Amateur Radio Examination Locations and Schedules in the Area

(Continued from page 9)

then sessions will alternate between ARRL/VEC and W5YI/VEC. The exam fee is \$6.65. For more information, please call Dick Lemme, K9FA, at (920) 235-0987, e-mail: lemme@vbe.com, or write Dick at 826 Jefferson Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901.

Portage, WI
10:30 a.m. Portage Public Library, 253 W Edgewater St., Portage, WI. Contact Ed Wagner, (608) 584-4858, e-mail: ab9fn@yahoo.com.

Racine, WI
ARRL VEC Monthly - first Saturday, except January, July, and August. Monthly exams are given 9 to 11 a.m. at the Faith United Methodist Church, 1013 Harmony Drive, Racine. Walk-ins are permitted. Talk in on 147.87/.27. Inquiries and registrations should be directed to Robert M. Frederiksen, (262) 637-6588, e-mail: kb9zaf@arrl.net.

Rockford, IL
Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners (W5YI VEC) Third Saturday of every month. 9:00 a.m. to noon. No new applicants after 11:00 a.m. Walkins welcome. Held at St. Anthony Hospital, 5660 E State St., Rockford, IL. Contact: Randy Scott, W9HL, W9HL@ARRL.NET (815-877-4328).

Sheboygan, WI
Sheboygan County ARC (ARRL/VEC). Exams are held in the Red Cross Building, 2032 Erie Avenue, Sheboygan, WI. The test areas are handicap accessible with signage posted to direct candidates to

the proper area of the building. Walk-ins are accepted, however notification ahead of time of your intention to appear would be appreciated. Contact: Art Pahr K9XJ, 920-876-2370. N8029 Willow Road k9xj@arrl.net Plymouth, WI 53073-2929

Sterling, IL
Sterling Rock Falls Amateur Radio Society. Location: Challand Middle School. [1700 6th Avenue, Sterling, IL. http://www.sterlinghamfest.com](http://www.sterlinghamfest.com). Talk-In: 146.85 (PL 114.8). Contact: Lloyd Sherman, KB9APW, 25873 Capp Road, Sterling, IL 61081. Phone: 815-336-2434. Email: lsberman@essex1.com

Tomahawk, WI
Tomahawk Repeater Association ARRL/VEC team. Last Saturday of every month January thru October. Registration at 8:30, testing at 9:00 a.m. at Sacred Heart Hospital, 401 W. Mohawk Dr., Tomahawk. Contact Diane Lodge Hamman, KA9BHK, 145.43 MHz or telephone 715 453-3908.

St. Paul, MN
Saint Paul Radio Club (SPRC) First Saturday of the month. Site: Roseville City Hall, 2660 County Road C, NW Corner County Road. C & Lexington Ave., Roseville MN 55101. Time: 8:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)Contact: David M Buending, (952)486-0836, Email: AD2B@ARRL.NET, VEC: ARRL/VEC.

Washington Island, WI
Contact: John W. Van Sandt, (217) 826-8821. n9yrx@hotmail.com

Waukesha, WI (Milwaukee VEC)
Sponsor: West Allis Radio Club Swapfest, Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed. Contact: John G. Kraak, (262)548-9585. Email: jkraak@wi.rr.com. Location: AMF Waukesha Lanes, across from Waukesha EXPO, Waukesha, WI 53186

Wausau, WI.
Sponsor: WVRA. Time: 8:00 Walk-ins allowed). Contact: Gerald L. Graebel, (715) 42-9542. VEC: ARRL/VEC. Location: Martech Systems, 614 N. 3rd Ave, Wausau, WI 54401. Parking in rear of building.



Check us out on the web
at <http://www.bssts.org>

WISCONSIN SECTION MANAGER REPORT

(Continued from page 6)
www.arrl.org/development/memorial.html#top

The K8DAR (Menominee D.A.R. Boys & Girls Club) entered in the CQ WW DX contest. They had 6 youth (two licensed), and 5 adult control ops in attendance. The total was over 6000 pts with 46 contacts and 34 countries. Congratulations!!

Kids Day 2009 is Coming! Sponsored by the Boring (Oregon) Amateur Radio Club, Kids Day is intended to encourage young people (licensed or not) to enjoy Amateur Radio. It can give young people on-the-air experiences they might develop an interest in pursuing a license in the future. It is intended to give hams a chance to share their station with children. Stations exchange first names, age, location and favorite color.

Suggested frequencies: 3.740 and 3.940 MHz, 7.240 MHz, 14.290 MHz, 18.140 MHz, 24.960 MHz, 28.390 MHz and 2 meter repeater frequencies (with permission from your area repeater sponsor). Observe third party traffic restrictions when making DX contacts.

Awards: All participants are eligible to receive a colorful certificate (it becomes the child's personalized sales brochure on ham radio). Please visit www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kids-day-survey.html to complete a short survey and post your comments. You will then have access to download the certificate page.

We are always looking for pictures of the kids operating your station so we can share them with others, so send them to kids-day@arrl.org.

The 10th annual SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) special event will take place Saturday, December 6, 2008. SRD is co-sponsored by the National Weather Service and the American Radio Relay League. SKYWARN Recognition Day is a way to recognize the commitment made by Amateur Radio operators in helping keep their communities safe. During the 24-hour special event, amateur radio operators visit their local National Weather Service (NWS) office and work as a team to contact other hams across the world. The on-air event will be held from 0000 UTC to 2400 UTC December 6. If you haven't joined in the fun, 2008 is your year! To learn more, check out this web site: <http://hamradio.noaa.gov>.

Congratulations to George Steber, WB9LVI, on winning the QST Cover Plaque Award for the article "Experimenter's RF Spectrum Analyzer" in the October QST issue! (Dick Isely will present the award to George at the January 3 WARAC Swapfest)

October was a busy month spent at the ARES/RACES conference and MRC and FCARC Swapfests. We will look forward to seeing you at the WARAC Swapfest on January 3!

73, Don, ARRL Wisconsin Section
Section Manager:
Donald E. Michalski, W9IXG
w9ixg@arrl.org

A COUPLE OF OMS AT THE EAA SHOW

The term OM as used in ham radio stands for Old Man. Here are a couple of Old Old Men (both in their 80s) operating and logging from the EAA event in Oshkosh. On 20 meters we willd 3 1/2 pages in about 1 1/2 hours in the a.m. but both the 10 and 40 meter bands went dead in the p.m. and we only managed a couple of contacts on 40 meters.

Had a ball but took us about 1 hour and 45 minutes just trying to get in the place via gate 320 which was the gate the hams were to use.


The ham in the red cap (left) is Roy Thompson, KA9HTF. He lives on Evergreen Trail in Portage. The other OM (right) is Bob Johnson, WB9EIW who lives at 201 E. Minnehaha Ave. in Portage.

I guess we did ok because a couple of

there hams asked us if we were contesters as we did such a good job with the pileups. We told them “NO”, just a couple of OMs that are usually on the other side of the pileups.

73, Bob Johnson, WB9EIW





Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club



WB9FDZ (Original Club Call)
K9ODK (Robert L. Prine Memorial Call)
Club net: Sundays 8:00 p.m. on 147.315
Richard K. Plouffe, N9ROY, Secretary
P.O. Box 641, Lake Delton, WI 53940
YTARC Home Page: <http://yellowthunder.org>

Meeting Minutes July 1, 2008

Meeting opened at 7:30 pm by Steve, N9UDO, President. Minutes of last meeting read and approved as read. Treasurers report: WE HAVE MONEY!!!! (contact N9UDO if you need total balance on hand) Motion by Rick, N9ROY, seconded by Juanita, KC9MAB to reimburse N9UDO for outstanding bills he still has. Total of approximately 11.29. Passed

Old Business:
Field Day: It was cold, wet, and a blast. Held at Owen Park again this year, they set up on Friday evening, and was ready to go by 1:00pm on Saturday. All totals were, 198 contacts made. Bands worked were 10-75 meters and some 6 meters also. Operated as a 2A operation, which means 2 transmitters or more at same time. Tom, N9PQJ has a list of all stations worked if you would like a copy of it. On Saturday, about 1:30-3:30 or so, it stormed pretty good. Thank Goodness for good food....Sunday had the traditional LARGE breakfast meal. Also, a visitor from Texas showed up for a visit. Nice visit for everyone.

Ted Meyer, K9RCE, formally N9BXY, has donated some equipment to Yellow Thunder Club to be used by new hams to use till they are able to get their own equipment. Yellow Thunder Club will continue to have ownership of the equipment and can loan it out to members. If you are in need of the use of some of this equipment, please contact N9UDO. Don, K9JYX motioned, Dave KB9CSW seconded, to offer Ted a Life Membership in YTARC, and also to send Ted a plaque thanking him for the donation. Passed.

Swap Fest:
Our annual swapfest will be held on August 9, 2008 at the Sauk County Fairgrounds in Baraboo. We will be setting up on Friday evening at 6:00. Gates open at 6:00am Saturday for vendors and 8:00 for everyone else. The cost is \$5.00 at the gate for everyone. The grand prize drawing will be for a Tri-Band HT from Icom. Other items include a dual band magnet mount antenna and Dual-Band Base antenna. There are assorted miscellaneous items from ARRL.

There was some discussion pertaining to Board members being able to win the Grand Prize drawing. There was a lively discussion on this topic and K9JYX motioned that board members cannot win ANY drawing. Seconded by N9PQJ. 5 ayes, 5 naves. motion defeated with no majority. Motion by Jane, KC9NGI to have Board members be able to win the lesser

drawings, but NOT the Grand Prize drawing. Seconded by Tom, KC9KPT. 9aves, 1 nay. Passed.

We still have posters available to put up. If you need some, contact N9UDO. Motion by K9JYX to adjourn, seconded by W9ULK. Passed.

Meeting Minutes September 2, 2008

Meeting called to order by President Steve Schulze, N9UDO.

There were no minutes from the August meeting as Rick, N9ROY was absent. Treasurer Don Evenson, K9JYX reported on a successful 12 annual swap meet. The club took in \$850.00 in pre-sales and gate receipts. The food department manned (womaned) by Karen Schulze and Kim Harrison took in \$765.00. Deducting operating expenses the club netted \$575.93. Other income was \$80.00 in dues and \$80.00 in donations for the club to use as they wish. Expenses were \$18.27 for misc. parts for the new repeater controller and \$11.29 for ARRL field day flyers. Leaving a bank balance of \$7077.66.

Steve reported that the attendance wasn't down too far from past swap meets.

The balloon flight was a success and Len, N9QIP recovered the balloon on the edge of a lake in a large gravel pit outside Marengo, IL.

A plaque for Ted Meyer, K9RCE was discussed. Ted donated HF and VHF gear to the club to be loaned to new hams to get them on the air. Don, K9JYX will order the plaque.

The subject of having a holiday party was brought up. Bill, KC9CVD is going to check some restaurants in the Sauk Prairie area. If anyone has any ideas on a location bring it to the October meeting or let the board know. Moved by Tom, N9PQJ and 2nd by Bill, N9KXX to have a party on Saturday, Jan. 10, 2009. Passed.

Old/New Business: Steve, N9UDO installed the new Arcom controller for the YTARC repeater on Aug. 16. It controls both the 147.315 and the 145.310 repeaters. Steve can operate the controller to change settings via the internet.

There is a possibility of linking the YTARC repeater with the Richland Center Repeater on command. This will be looked into

some more.

Our D Star repeater pair has expired. Steve, N9UDO sees no problem in reapplying. He and Brad, KB9VMC are still exploring the logistics of getting it on Brad's tower.

Annual Nominations of officers for 2009: President: Bill, KC9CVD move to suspend the rules and cast a unanimous ballot for Steve, N9UDO as president. Second by Jamie, KC9LFD.

Vice President: Bill, N9KXX moved to suspend the rules and cast a unanimous ballot for Tom, N9PQJ. Second by Bill, KC9CVD.

Secretary: Bill, N9KXX moved to nominate N9ROY. Second by Jamie, KC9LFD. Don, K9JYX nominated Jane, N9JAS. Second by KB9VMC. Dave KB9CSW moved to close nominations. Second by Bill, KC9CVD. Passed

Treasurer: Gary, W9ULK nominated Don, K9JYX. Second by Jane, N9JAS. Jamie, KC9LFD nominated by Jane, N9JAS. Second by Dave, KB9CSW. Bill KC9CVD moved to close nominations. Second by Bill, N9KXX.

The slate of nominees to be elected at the October meeting is:
President: Steve Schulze, N9UDO
V. President: Tom Harrison, N9PQJ
Secretary: Rick Plouffe, N9ROY - Jane Steinweg, N9JAS
Treasurer: Don Evenson, K9JYX - Jamie Ivanov, KC9LFD

Steve, N9UDO reminded members that the annual "Lightning On the Lawn" will be held at D. C. Cox's place coming up shortly.

Dave, KB9CSW moved to adjourn the meeting. Second by N9PQJ.

In attendance:
W9ULK, Gary Sorenson
KB9CSW, Dave Spearing
KC9LFD, Jamie Ivanov
KC9CVD, Bill Stehling
N9KXX, Bill Klinkner
N9JAS, Jane Steinweg
N9PQJ, Tom Harrison
N9UDO, Steve Schulze
K9JYX, Don Evenson
KB9VMC, Brad Pointon

Respectfully submitted, K9JYX, Secretary pro-tem.

Meeting Minutes October 7, 2008

Meeting opened at 7:30pm by Steve, N9UDO club president. Minutes of Sept meeting approved as published. Treasurers report: \$xxxx.66 balance.

Old Business:
Election of Officers.
Following were elected to the Board.
President: Steve Schulze, N9UDO
V.Pres: Tom Harrison, N9PQJ
Treasurer: Don Evenson, K9JYX

Secretary: Jane Steinweg, N9JAS
Congrats.

UHF Sprint is scheduled this weekend from 7-11pm local time.
Motion from Tom, N9PQJ to adjourn, seconded by K9JYX, Passed.

After the meeting we had a very informative presentation from Mark Thompson, WB9QZB on D-Star digital communications. Enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Plouffe, N9ROY

Attendance:
Don Evenson, K9JYX - Baraboo
Rick Plouffe, N9ROY - Wisconsin Dells
Steve Schulze, N9UDO - Baraboo
Tom Plouffe, KC9TOM - Wisconsin Dells
Juanita Plouffe, KC9WOG - Wisconsin Dells
Wayne Burgess, W9YYZ - Lodi
Dave Spearing, KB9CSW - Portage
Joe Imilkowski, W9CWD - Fitchburg
Tom Harrison, N9PQJ - Reedsburg
Jane Steinweg, N9JAS - Baraboo
Mike Hoier, KA9PSL - Lake Delton
Jamie Ivanov, KC9LFD - Lodi
Randy Hansen, W19D - Westfield
Kevin Graham, KC9FWE - Montello
Gary Sorenson, W9ULK - Oxford
Kevin Kolpitcke, K9EV - Madison
David Mullenix, N9LTD - Madison
Mark Thompson, WB9QZB - Chicago

Meeting Minutes November 4, 2008

Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club
Meeting Minutes - November 4, 2008

Prior to the regular meeting, the Board discussed the Member-at-large appointment. Dave Spearing, KB9CSW, was unanimously reappointed. Congratulations!

Due to the lack of a quorum, the regular meeting was canceled. Our next meeting will be December 2, 2008.

Informal discussions were had on the following:
1. Zilch will be November 30, at Farm Kitchen.
2. We are closing in on January 10, 2009, the chosen date for our Holiday Party. A location still needs to be chosen, all input is encouraged and welcome. Forward your suggestions to any board member. We need to make a decision SOON!

Respectfully submitted,
Jane A. Steinweg, N9JAS
YTARC Secretary

Attendance:
Steve Schulze, N9UDO
Tom Harrison, N9PQJ
Don Evenson, K9JYX
Jane Steinweg, N9JAS

SWAPFESTS

 <p>2004 WINNER Nicholas Luther, K9NL Oshkosh, WI.</p> <p>34th ANNUAL MIDWINTER SWAPFEST WAUKESHA EXPOSITION CENTER WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN SATURDAY JANUARY 03, 2009</p> <p><i>Both sponsored by:</i> THE WEST ALLIS RADIO AMATEUR CLUB, INC. P. O. BOX 1072 · MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53201</p>	<p><i>HAM IT UP EVERY SPRING!</i> MADISON SWAPFEST Mandt Community Center <i>APRIL XX, 2009</i> 400 Mandt Parkway Stoughton WI Doors open at 8 a.m. Sponsored by MARA/W9HSY P. O. Box 8890 Madison, WI 53708-8890 Swapfest Information Line. (608) 245-8890</p>	<p>SOUTH MILWAUKEE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB SWAPFEST 09 SATURDAY JULY 11, 2009 (Held every July) <i>American Legion Park</i> Shepard Avenue • Oak Creek, WI (414) 762-3235, Ask for Verne P.O. Box 102, South Milwaukee, WI 53172 e-mail ryatex@aol.com</p>		
<p>Ozaukee Radio Club HAM RADIO AND COMPUTER SWAPFEST SEPT. , 2008</p> <p>Sept. 06, 2008. ORC outdoor swapfest. Fireman's Park, Cedarburg, WI. Contact: Tom Ruhlmann, W9IPR, (262) 377-6945 Admission is \$5.00 at the gate. No tables to rent. Sell from the back of your vehicle. For current information go to: www.ozaukeeadioclub.org</p>	<p>The Chicago FM Club presents RADIO EXPO 2008 SEPTEMBER , 13-14, 2008 Boone County Fairgrounds Rts. 76 and Business 20, Belvidere, Illinois Free parking • Amateur Exams • Talkin 146.16/76 Info Voice mail and FAX: (708) 457-0966 http://www.chicagofmclub.org 5127 N. Monterey Dr., Norridge IL 60706-3242</p>	<p>TRI-COUNTY ARC PRESENTS HAMFEST 2009 March XX, 2009 YOUR SPRING FAVORITE ! www.cmdline.com/tcarc/ TCARC 213 Frederick St (920) 563-6381 Fort Atkinson, WI 53538 Evenings</p>		
<p>SOUTH MILWAUKEE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB AUCTION Amateur Radio, Computers & Electronics Wed. OCT. 01, 2008, 6:00 p.m. <i>American Legion Post 434</i> Shepard Avenue • Oak Creek, WI (414) 762-3235, Ask for Verne P.O. Box 102 , South Milwaukee, WI 53172 e-mail: ryatex@aol.com</p>	<p>Circus City Swapfest Sponsored by the Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club August XX, 2009 • 7 am—Noon Sauk County Fairgrounds • Baraboo, WI</p> <table border="1"><tr><td>Vendors • Concessions Camping • Free Parking Tail Gate Area</td><td>\$4.00 — Advanced \$5.00 — At Gate \$5.00 — 8 foot tables</td></tr></table> <p>Steve Schulze, N9UDO • Bill Klinkner, N9KXX (606) 356-2313 • (608) 643-6908/643-6453 http://www.qsl.net/ytarc/hamfest.htm,</p>	Vendors • Concessions Camping • Free Parking Tail Gate Area	\$4.00 — Advanced \$5.00 — At Gate \$5.00 — 8 foot tables	<p>The Milwaukee Repeater Club presents AMATEUR RADIO FEST 2008 NOVEMBER xx, 2009 5555 W, Good Hope Road, Milwaukee, WI Elks Lodge, Across from AES For more information, see: http://www.mrc91.org e-mail mrc@mrc91.org or call (414) 526-7011</p>
Vendors • Concessions Camping • Free Parking Tail Gate Area	\$4.00 — Advanced \$5.00 — At Gate \$5.00 — 8 foot tables			

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

<p>TOWER ELECTRONICS THE HAMS DIME STORE AND WHOLESALE TO THE WORLD</p>  <p>ORDERS 1-800-662-3422 TECH INFO 920-435-3359 FAX LINE 920-435-2980</p> <p>SCOTT KB9AMM & JILL KB9PZF e-mail: sales@pl-259.com P O BOX 12631 GREEN BAY, WI 54307-2631 PRODUCTS FOR HAMS FROM HAMS SINCE 1978 web: www.pl-259.com</p>	 <p>ARRL Publications HOTLINE Call Toll Free! 888-277-5289 e-mail: pubsales@arrl.org</p> <p>Check us out on the Web: http://www.arrl.org/ • Complete Publications Catalog • Membership application and services</p>	<p>Check us out on the web at http://www.bsas.org</p>
--	--	--

<p>ELMER by Rich Regent, K9GDF</p>	 <p>HOPE IT'S A NEW TRANSCEIVER.</p> <p>A PUPPY!</p> <p>MERRY CHRISTMAS.</p>
---	--